

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 7 and 13, respectively. There were no intervening claims. Claims 1 and 9 have also been amended to add the word "generally." Applicant believes this change does not affect the allowability of the claims.

Therefore, claims 1-6, 8-12 and 13-16 are allowable.

Claim 17, the only other original claim, has been cancelled.

Claims 18-23 have been added. Independent claim 18 specifies a skirt having a width and including a top portion and a generally cylindrically-shaped wall portion extending from the top portion, the top and wall portions defining a skirt cavity, the top portion having an upper surface having therein an internally threaded central bore, and the top portion including a lower surface defining a bearing surface for the wristpin, the bearing surface extending across substantially the entire width of the skirt. Claim 18 also calls for a crown coupled to the skirt, the crown having thereon an externally threaded boss threaded into the central bore, the boss and the top portion defining a central lubrication cavity in the central bore. The top portion includes at least one inlet passageway communicating between the skirt cavity and the lubrication cavity for supplying lubricant from the skirt cavity to the lubrication cavity, and the top portion includes a central lubrication hole communicating between the lubrication cavity and the bearing surface for supplying lubricant to the bearing surface and to a central portion of the wristpin.

The cited references do not teach or suggest this piston construction. Among other things, the references do not suggest the combination of a bearing surface that extends across substantially the entire width of the skirt, a crown with an externally threaded boss threaded into a central bore of the top portion, the boss and the top portion defining a central lubrication cavity in the central bore, and a central lubrication hole communicating between the lubrication cavity and the bearing surface for supplying lubricant to the bearing surface and to a central portion of the wristpin. Therefore, claims 18-23 are allowable.

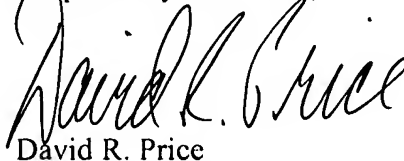
Claims 19 and 20 further define the bearing surface and the location of the central lubrication hole.

Claim 21 specifies two additional lubrication holes on opposite sides of the central lubrication hole, the additional lubrication holes and the central lubrication hole being located in a plane. This construction is not suggested by the cited references.

Claims 22 and 23 further define the lubrication holes.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1-6, 8-12, 13- 15 and 18-23 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David R. Price
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